

REMARKS

This application includes claims 1-29. Claims 13 and 27 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1, 14, 16 and 28 are hereby amended. No new matter has been introduced. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

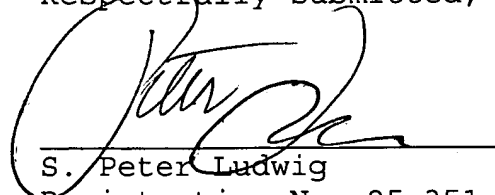
Claims 13-15 and 27-29 were objected to for depending from a rejected base claim, but were deemed to recite patentable subject matter. Applicant has therefore amended claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of claim 13, and has amended claim 16 to incorporate the limitations of claim 27. Claims 13 and 27 have therefore been canceled, and claims 14 and 28 have been amended to depend from claims 1 and 16, respectively. Thus, claims 1 and 16 are now believed to be in condition for allowance, as are claims 2-12, 14, 15, which depend from claim 1, and claims 17-26, 28 and 29, which depend from claim 16.

Claims 1 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Ellis et al. (US 5,497,371), while claims 2-12 and 17-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Ellis in view of Baroudi (US 6,594,278) or Scholefield et al. (US 5,742,592) or Delvaux (US 2002/0041595). As noted above, Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 16 to distinguish the present invention over the cited art by incorporating the limitations of dependent claims that were found to recite patentable subject matter. Therefore, claims 1 and 16, as amended, are believed to be patentable. In view of the patentability of the independent claims, dependent claims 2-12, 14, 15, 17-26, 28 and 29 are believed to be patentable, as well.

Applicant believes the amendments and remarks stated above to be fully responsive to all of the objections and grounds of rejection raised by the Examiner.

In view of these amendments and remarks, all the claims in the present patent application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Prompt notice to this effect is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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